CLAIMS:

1. A device comprising:

a fiber optic cable;

a transponder attached to the fiber optic cable;

a panel;

an antenna positioned adjacent to the panel; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna.

2. A device according to Claim 1 wherein the fiber optic cable includes a fiber optic connector, and wherein the transponder is attached to the fiber optic connector.

3. A device according to Claim 2 wherein the transponder includes a transponder antenna and an integrated circuit chip attached to the transponder antenna.

4. A device according to Claim 3, further comprising a substrate attached to the antenna and mounted to the panel.

5. A device comprising:

a fiber optic cable;

a transponder attached to the fiber optic cable;

a substrate adapted for attachment to a panel of a host device;

an antenna attached to the substrate; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna so as to form a reader.

6. A device according to Claim 5 wherein the fiber optic cable includes a fiber optic connector, and wherein the transponder is attached to the fiber optic connector.

7. A device according to Claim 6 wherein the transponder includes a transponder antenna and an integrated circuit chip attached to the transponder antenna.

8. A device comprising:

a fiber optic cable having a fiber optic connector;

a transponder attached to the fiber optic connector;

a substrate adapted for attachment to a panel of a host device;

an antenna attached to the substrate; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna so as to form a reader which is capable of activating and interrogating the transponder when the transponder is sufficiently close to the antenna.

9. A device according to Claim 8 wherein the transponder includes unique identifying information about the fiber optic cable.

10. A device according to Claim 8 wherein the fiber optic cable has a length.

11. A device according to Claim 10 wherein the transponder includes information related to the length of the fiber optic cable.

12. A device according to Claim 8 wherein the fiber optic connector conforms to an industrial standard.

13. A device according to Claim 12 wherein the transponder includes information related to the industrial standard to which the fiber optic conforms.

14. A device according to Claim 8 wherein the fiber optic cable includes an optical fiber, and wherein the optical fiber conforms to a predetermined optical fiber grade.

15. A device according to Claim 14 wherein the transponder includes information related to the predetermined optical fiber grade of the optical fiber of the fiber optic cable.

16. A device according to Claim 8 wherein the fiber optic cable was purchased on a specified date.

17. A device according to Claim 16 wherein the transponder includes information related to the specific purchase date of the fiber optic cable.

18. A device according to Claim 8 wherein the fiber optic cable was purchased pursuant to a warranty.

19. A device according to Claim 18 wherein the transponder includes information related to the warranty.

20. A device according to Claim 8 wherein the substrate is constructed of a polymer material.

21. A device comprising:

a cable;

a transponder attached to the cable;

a panel;

an antenna positioned adjacent to the panel; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna.

22. A device comprising:

a connector;

a transponder attached to the connector;

a panel;

an antenna positioned adjacent to the panel; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna.

23. A device according to Claim 22 wherein the connector is attached to an optoelectronic device.

24. A device according to Claim 23 wherein the connector is an electrical connector.

25. A device according to Claim 23 wherein the connector is a fiber optic connector.

26. A device comprising:

a cable;

a transponder attached to the cable;

a substrate adapted for attachment to a panel of a host device;

an antenna attached to the substrate; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna so as to form a reader.

27. A device comprising:

a connector;

a transponder attached to the connector;

a substrate adapted for attachment to a panel of a host device;

an antenna attached to the substrate; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna so as to form a reader.

28. A device comprising:

a cable having a connector;

a transponder attached to the connector;

a substrate adapted for attachment to a panel of a host device;

an antenna attached to the substrate; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna so as to form a reader which is capable of activating and interrogating the transponder when the transponder is sufficiently close to the antenna.

29. A device comprising:

an optoelectronic device having an electrical connector;

a transponder attached to the electrical connector;

a substrate adapted for attachment to a panel of a host device;

an antenna attached to the substrate; and

a transceiver electrically connected to the antenna so as to form a reader which is capable of activating and interrogating the transponder when the transponder is sufficiently close to the antenna.